

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 12 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 10, 11 and 12 have been amended. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated September 21, 2005.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication in item 4 of the Office Action that claims 7 and 8 are allowable.

Applicant also gratefully acknowledges the indication in item 3 of the Office Action that claims 3-6 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

However, for at least the reasons discussed below, it is respectfully submitted that all of claims 1-6 are allowable.

As to the Merits:

As to the merits, the Examiner maintains the following rejection:

Claims 1, 2 and 9-12 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Takayama et al. (of record).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With regard to Applicant's argument that Takayama discloses a sensor where color filters of the same color are non-continuously disposed, the Examiner asserts the following:

However, the claim recitations of "consecutive ones [pixels] of identical color" (claim 1, line 6), "spatially consecutive filter devices of identical color" (claim 2, line 3) and the like are readable upon a consecutive set selected from those pixels, even though those pixels are non-consecutive within the larger set of pixels of all colors. (For example, the five "A" pixels of the top row of Takayama et al Figure 3 would be readable as "consecutive ones [pixels] of identical color", but a set consisting of only the first two and the last two, skipping the middle one, would not.)¹

However, it is noted that the dictionary defines "consecutive" as "following one after another without interruption." Therefore, it is submitted that the Examiner's reliance on the disclosure in Fig. 3 of Takayama lacks merit.

In any event, to further the prosecution of the present application, each of the independent claims 1, 10, 11 and 12 has been amended to recite the language "consecutively adjoining" to clearly define over the applied reference of Takayama.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicant submits that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicant requests such action at an early date.

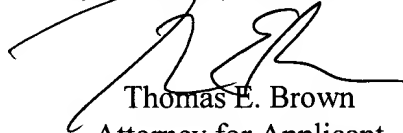
¹ Please see, page 4, line 16 – page 5, line 2 of the Action.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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